

Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday March 14, 2010

*They came to a place named Gethsemane;
and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed."
And He took with Him Peter and James and John,
and began to be very distressed and troubled.*

Mark 14:32-33

It seems to me there is a great deal of preaching, today, that has as its sole purpose the goal of being light and bouncy and entertaining to its hearers. The preacher, it appears, believes he has accomplished his task if he can make you laugh and feel good about yourself before the message is finished. If that's what is expected today, then perhaps I should warn you that this morning's sermon is *not* going to be one of those sermons!

Instead, I am convinced that it is vital for us as Christians to face the hard realities of life in this broken and rebellious world. We can't afford to hide ourselves behind pleasant little fantasies. There is simply too much at stake! Life is short; hell is real; and people are dying every minute. But there is a Savior from sin in the Lord Jesus Christ!

One of those realities we must face, then, is the awful depth of our own sins! Not just the sins of the world, mind you, but each of us must face the terrible reality of his or her own sin and the wrath of God it has earned. That is what Jesus is dealing with here in Mark 14 as He enters the Garden of Gethsemane – the awful curse upon our sin! For finally, after three years of exhausting ministry and teaching and dealing with dense disciples, He has come to *that hour* He has warned them about when he must take upon Himself the awful wrath of God that stands against us. It is for this reason He has come into the world, Mark 10:45 tells us, "*to give His life as a ransom for many.*" So, here, in this Garden of Christ's Despair, is where the real battle is fought and Jesus surrenders Himself to His Father's will in Becoming our Savior!

Loving Him Who First Loved and Gave Himself for Me!

Pastor Scott